



The Lighthouse
FOUNDATION

Providing Hope...Changing Lives

ANCHOR

www.thelighthousepa.org

June 2020



See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah 43:19

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2020 - Providing Hope in the Midst of COVID-19

We see change and uncertainty all around us, but at The Lighthouse Foundation we have good news for our community and that is that **"We are here!"** God has provided new ways for us to continue our ministries through this COVID-19 wilderness. Our Food Pantry has transitioned into a drive-through model for those in need of food, our emergency financial assistance remains available and we continue to offer housing to those facing homelessness. These are all good things going on around you.

Our ministries are meeting the needs of those who have never been in need before, those who are just learning about The Lighthouse Foundation and the vital services we provide, and those who were not sure how to feed their family when they have not received their anticipated unemployment compensation and/or stimulus check. Both single parents and families are trying to balance the "new normal" of working from home while still providing three meals a day to their children. It is a financial and emotional hardship. Operating as an essential business during the COVID-19 pandemic has opened up doors and opportunities for us to help alleviate these unforeseen burdens for 4,516 people, and has allowed us to continue to be a constant in this ever-changing environment.

The Lighthouse Foundation is a nonprofit, Christian outreach organization with a mission of encouraging others to find hope in Christ while meeting their immediate needs and empowering them towards self-sufficiency. We strive to provide for and love people right where they are, just as Jesus provides for and loves us.

If you, or anyone you know is in need of food or other resources please reach out to us: **"We are here!"** We continue to provide hope through our ministries in a new social distance manner. Thank you for being part of our community. This newsletter includes program updates, volunteer and donation opportunities, and upcoming events.



Victoria Spreng



A DEEPER LOOK INTO TRANSITIONAL HOUSING CASE MANAGEMENT

Things may look different in the way we are operating in Transitional Housing during this time, but we are still fully committed to providing hope and changing lives. We have recently received a grant award to purchase iPads and laptops to be used by our residents for goal related activities and case management from a distance. This will also allow us to put together fun and educational activities for those we serve. Our staff is working to provide the quality of support that our residents deserve while being mindful of safety.

Chuck and Susan, The Lighthouse Foundation's Transitional Housing Case Managers, share their perspectives of the changes that have occurred since the pandemic began.

Q: In your words, what does a “Case Manager” do and what is your favorite part of your job?

C: Provide support, encouragement, reassurance, and “practical advice” for residents. My favorite part is seeing residents begin to restore family ties that had been broken as a result of chemical dependency.

S: Guide our residents in setting short and long term goals then provide the support and guidance to achieve those goals. My favorite part is getting to know each woman’s story and helping her to see that she is not only loved by God, but she is made in His image and reflects His glory uniquely.



Susan (center) with TH Residents

Q: What are some positive results you’ve seen in the lives of our residents during the pandemic?

C: I’d go back again to the restoration of family ties; one resident was able to use his newfound time off in a positive manner – to reconnect with his two children who live out of county.

S: Resiliency. These women have overcome so many obstacles already in life that this virus will not keep them down. One resident with a long history of domestic violence found a job, child care, and transportation to and from work in the midst of the Stay at Home Order.

Q: How has case management changed during the Covid-19 shutdowns and Stay at Home Order?

C: Much more of our contact has been through texts and phone calls. Much of the focus has been on factors beyond the traditional scope of “recovery”, such as navigating the unemployment compensation process, remote school access for their children, and making health care appointments.

S: At the beginning of the Stay at Home Order visits and calls with the residents increased to calm fears and answer questions. Teaching and implementing the CDC’s safety guidelines on social distancing and hygiene were discussed and put into action. Residents with mental health challenges continue to require increased visits and calls to assure their needs are being met and the residents are safe and secure.

Q: What are some challenges the residents have faced since the pandemic began in March?

C: Financial uncertainty can lead to insecurity and indecision, or poor decisions, in anyone’s life. This is compounded when a resident is responsible for children or other family members. I keep a close eye on each resident’s financial condition and concerns, and provide meaningful advice on managing stressors.

S: The greatest challenge for residents has been receiving needed services. Telehealth appointments for mental health therapy sessions do not provide the higher level of supervision and guidance our residents require. Additionally, residents did not possess the necessary technology for their children to attend school remotely. Butler School District provided families in need, including our residents, with Chromebooks and wi-fi service so the children could complete the school year. The school also provided lunches for families in our community.

Q: Moving forward, how will your case management style change as the pandemic persists for the foreseeable future?

C: Some changes are likely here for the foreseeable future – social distancing, job-related and school-related changes, and new ways in which financial challenges will be met. I hope to provide the highest level of support, new ideas, and “new thinking” possible to assist our residents on their road to recovery and self-sufficiency.

S: There is more of a collaborative effort to provide for families like our residents. The school and local agencies are working together with them to ensure that families are seen, heard, and provided for in this extraordinary time. Because of the adaptability and ingenuity of our local agencies, services for those in need will continue. It has been an honor to work with them on behalf of our residents.



Chuck (right) with TH Resident



WHOLE LIFE MINISTRIES CHANGES ITS APPLICATION PROCESS, BUT CONTINUES TO PROVIDE GREATLY NEEDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

Since COVID-19 safety guidelines were put in place our Whole Life Ministries (WLM) Program has not been able to meet face to face with individuals in need of immediate financial support. Doing one on one meetings are an important element to understanding applicant's current situation and what may have led to the need for financial assistance. Financial assistance is meant to lift people out of the situation they are in and keep them from falling back into the same situation.

Due to shut downs and layoffs we have had in influx of requests for assistance. Communication is encouraged between the individual and their landlord, the utility companies, and debtors. We are assuring applicants that there were others we've seen also waiting on their unemployment and stimulus checks. We encourage the utilization of the food pantry so the few funds people do have can be used to pay vital expenses. We provide a list of current resources that are available to those who are struggling during this current pandemic, while reminding them to continue to pay the expenses they can. We are here to help with budgeting, provide tools and resources, and to assist financially through these tough times.



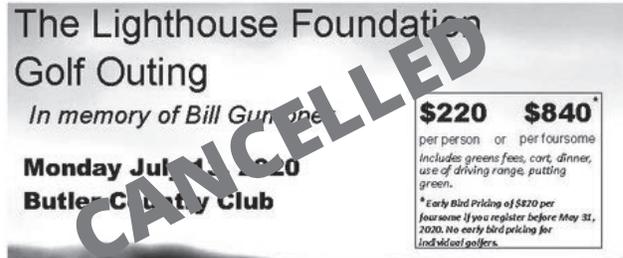
Brandy emailed staff to seek assistance with a water bill. Brandy's husband, Michael, received a liver transplant in 1998 and, due to complications of the medication he has been on, he now needs a kidney transplant. They live very modestly, with their 16-year-old daughter, on his supplemental income and Brandy's earned income. Brandy became ill just when the statewide shutdowns took effect. Her job insisted she quarantine herself for 6 weeks until COVID-19 testing could be done. Her tests came back negative, but the 6 weeks of quarantine took its toll on the family's finances. Brandy was denied unemployment and although they received a stimulus check in that time they used those funds to cover other bills and necessary medical expenses. The Lighthouse Foundation was able to assist Brandy with her water bill and relieve the financial burden for a family who was greatly impacted by the unexpected crisis of COVID-19.

Families like Brandy's are exactly what the Whole Life Ministries Program is for. We praise God for the support from the community to be able to help local households. We will continue to pray with, encourage, and give hope to our neighbors in need.

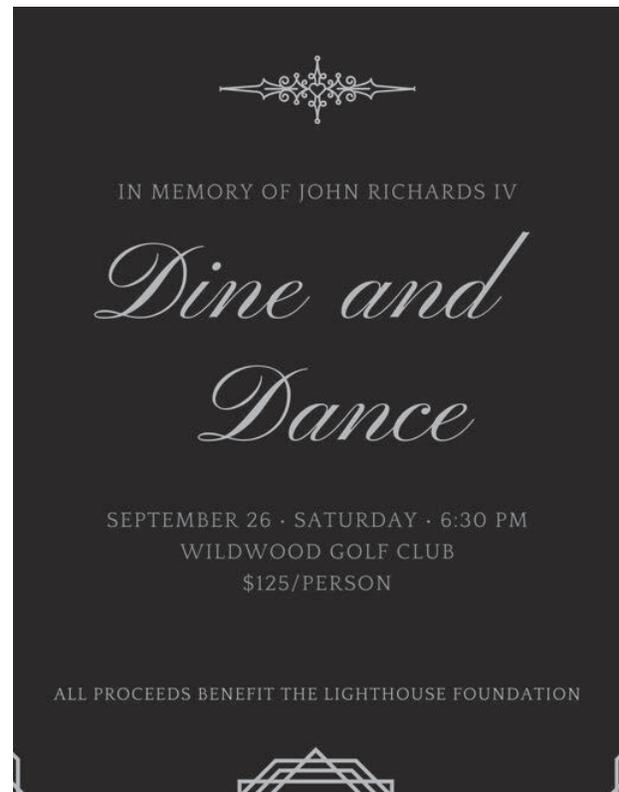
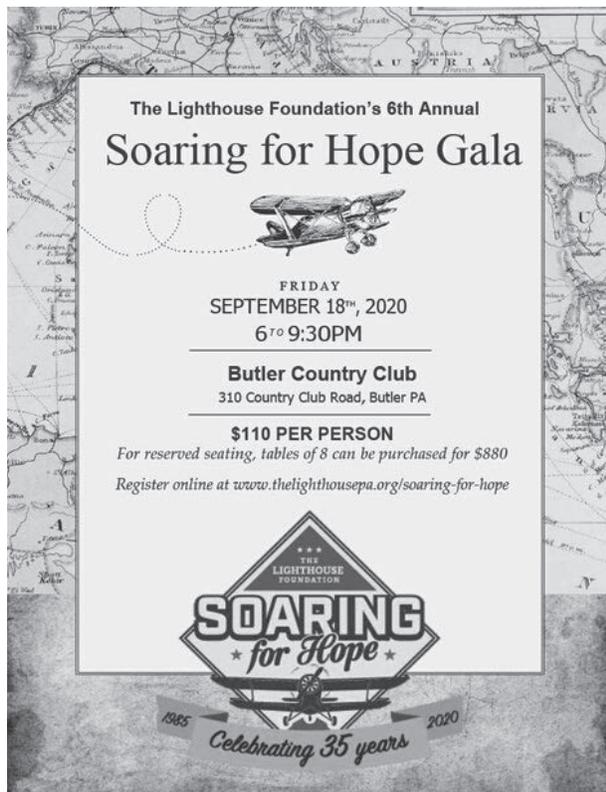


2020 FUNDRAISING EVENTS

After much prayer and consideration the decision has been made to cancel our 2020 Golf Outing. We hope you can join us for the Summer 2021 Lighthouse Foundation Golf Outing.



Celebrate 35 Years With Us At These Upcoming Events



The Lighthouse Foundation is funded through grants and charitable donations from businesses, churches, organizations, and individuals. To sow a seed into the ministries of The Lighthouse Foundation visit

www.thelighthousepa.org/donate

or

call 724-586-5554.



**THE LIGHTHOUSE
FOUNDATION**

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Meet Audrey

Audrey began volunteering in January 2016. Audrey volunteers 4 days a week sorting food items and stocking shelves as part of the morning crew. She also gives guidance to other volunteers and steps in wherever extra help is needed. Prior to COVID-19 and the change to a drive through food pantry, Audrey would be positioned in the bakery section of the food pantry.

“My favorite part of being a volunteer is meeting all of the wonderful people coming through. I love their kind words, their smiles and their hugs. I love children who come along with their parents because they are all so excited for the special “treat” (usually a juice box and piece of candy) that awaits them at the bakery section. I love all the other volunteers who help out, and we have become great friends - like family.”

Everyone loves the bakery with all of its yummy cakes, cookies and pies and they truly love seeing Audrey each week with her warm smile.

Not being able to connect face to face with the families that come through the food pantry is difficult for volunteers like Audrey who take such joy in blessing others in her service as a volunteer. She truly does miss everyone and looks forward to the time she will be able to see everyone once again and give them a treat, a hug, a smile and hear how they are doing.

When asked what she would like to share with anyone who is considering volunteering at The Lighthouse Foundation she stated “Becoming a volunteer here is one of the most fulfilling and happiest experiences you will ever have. And there is no stress – it’s pure joy! I thank God every day that this opportunity to serve Him and others became available to me. Try it, and you will agree!”

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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The Lighthouse Foundation is required to file an annual registration statement with the state. The official registration and financial information for the Lighthouse Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania. 1-800-732-0999

The Lighthouse Foundation is a Christian outreach organization meeting the needs of impoverished individuals and families in northern Allegheny and Butler Counties.

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